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## NOTES AND NEWS.

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THERE has just been issued by the Bureau of Education at Washington a bulletin on The Training of Teachers of Mathematics for Secondary Schools of the Countries Represented in the International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics. This bulletin has been prepared by Professor R. C. Archibald, of Brown University. It is a work of nearly three hundred pages, giving in great detail the requirements set by the various governments for a teacher of secondary mathematics. The Bureau of Education has a limited number of copies of this bulletin which it can send to those who are particularly interested in the work. After this limited number has been exhausted, copies can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office at Washington, D. C., at 30 cents per copy.

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### OLD ENGLAND KEEPS HER HEAD!

Detailed reports from London regarding the great new Education Act which Parliament has passed, remodelling from the ground up England's entire educational system, show one striking omission, an omission upon which Americans may well ponder:

*The Act contains no provision whatsoever for compulsory military training.*

From one point of view it is a magnificent tribute to the sound English spirit. Even in the midst of war, with Germany a stone's throw away, England can study her educational problems coolly and decide quietly to keep her schools as training centers

for *individualism plus service*, rather than, in a panic, to sacrifice them to the Prussian system of military drill.

And it is all the more striking because England, like America, has had various strenuous organizations dedicated to the job of fastening military training upon the school system. They have been well financed and have held meetings and distributed literature showing the horrors of life without military training; they have had questions "put" in the House and, in general, have betrayed a fine zeal on behalf of their propaganda. But H. A. L. Fisher, the Minister of Education, told a delegation from the Miners' Federation some months ago, that the government had canvassed the question of compulsory drill for the secondary schools and had decided that *the innovation had neither educational nor military value and would not be adopted*.

Mr. Fisher has proved as good as his word. The Education Act, which sweeps out of existence eleven educational acts and repeals parts of eleven others, provides for compulsory education up to fourteen years. Between the ages of fourteen and eighteen all English boys and girls must attend either the regular schools or, if they are obliged to work, then they must attend continuation schools and their employers must help to make that school attendance possible. Physical training is provided without stint but of military training there is not to be a trace.

England certainly has a quality all her own!

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"NEW JERSEY SAYS: 'No!'"

For the epidemic of military training which is sweeping the school boards of the country there is probably nothing to be done save to wait until it has run its course. It is partly due to a recognition that in a prolonged war the sixteen and seventeen year old boys might eventually be called to the colors, but chiefly it seems to us to be a form of vicarious patriotism for the elderly gentlemen on the school boards and for the local newspaper editors—those robust guardians of public virtue and the common schools. Public opinion itself is by no means hostile to the innovation.

But what the school boards do today they can undo tomorrow, and it is the business of the teaching profession to make sure that when the epidemic has run its course, we shall not be *permanently* saddled with compulsory military training in the high schools of the country. They have too much real work to do to be shackled with the bad pedagogy of military drill.

And it is significant that there is at least one state in the Union which seems to be relatively free from the craze for juvenile military drill. President Wilson's own state of New Jersey has apparently kept its head through these times, thanks to the moderate, sensible and utterly convincing report on the question of compulsory military drill in the secondary schools made by the commission appointed two years ago at the instance of the New Jersey legislature. That report, signed by a commission which included a member of the New Jersey National Guard, disposes effectually of the wild and woolly claims put forth for military drill for growing boys. It has been reprinted for free distribution by the American Union Against Militarism, Westory building, Washington, D. C., and ought to be in the hands of every teacher and school superintendent in the country for the day when it can be used to restore the schools to their normal course of development.

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THIS Christmas must count as no Christmas of recent years has counted. The spirit of Christmas must be kept up. Only sensible, wisely selected things can be given, and one gift should provide for many. Here it is—an ideal gift, for one and the whole family are sure to be delighted with it. *The Youth's Companion* fills the bill completely, coming all new 52 times a year. Stories, articles, receipts, special pages and more in quantity for all ages than any monthly magazine gives in a year. A distinct benefit to all hands. You give cheer, uplift, inspiration and entertainment—an actual need of these times. The *Companion* is still only \$2.00 a year.

Don't miss Grace Richmond's great serial, *Anne Exeter*, ten chapters, beginning December 12.

The following special offer is made to new subscribers: (1) *The Youth's Companion*—52 issues of 1919. (2) All the re-

maining weekly issues of 1918. (3) The Companion Home Calendar for 1919. All the above for only \$2.00, or you may include (4) McCall's Magazine—twelve fashion numbers. All for only \$2.50. The two magazines may be sent to separate addresses if desired. *The Youth's Companion*, Commonwealth Ave. & St. Paul St., Boston, Mass. New Subscriptions Received at this Office.

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